



RAISE THE

ROOF



Covering the Future

Pastor's Letter

Dear SUMC Family,

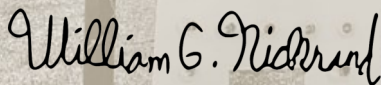
On behalf of Southport UMC, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the generosity and faith you have shown through your financial gifts over the years. Your commitment to Christ and SUMC is appreciated and apparent. It is time to let you know about the next big step we are taking in stewardship. We will be replacing a large portion of our roof and encouraging cyclical giving to the church maintenance/improvement fund.

These steps are about more than repairing a structure; it is about creating a safe, welcoming, and lasting space where we can continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This is no small task; the roof alone is estimated to cost around **\$300,000**.

Looking ahead, once the roof is complete, we hope to establish annual commitments of **\$50,000 to our maintenance fund**. This fund is **above and beyond our regular maintenance budget line** and will allow us to be proactive with maintenance projects and prevent the need for future large campaigns like this one. With your help we will be able to remain debt-free while responsibly caring for the church facilities that support our worship, ministries, and outreach.

Thank you, for believing in this vision and for helping us take such a significant step forward in stewardship. We ask for your continued prayers, engagement, and support as we move toward completing this task and building a stronger future for Southport UMC. Because of you, we are not only raising a roof but also strengthening our mission, ministry, and witness in the community and beyond.

With deep gratitude,



Rev. William G. Nickrand
Senior Pastor
Southport United Methodist Church





October, 2025

We assessed all of our facilities needs and have developed a plan to ensure we can continue to offer God's grace and hope into the future. And that starts with a new roof. In October we started rolling out new opportunities to help SUMC continue to be better stewards of all God has given us.



Road Map

November, 2025

By this time it is our hope that you have spent time in thought and prayer about how you can help with Raise the Roof.: Covering the Future. Let us know how you can help by turning in your commitment cards.

Oct. 18, 2025

The Fall Festival was a ton of fun, but it also was an opportunity to raise funds for the roof. Folks enjoyed the chili and the trunk or treating, and we turn up the heat on Pastor William to help us pay for that roof!



March 2026



**PREACHIN'
FROM THE
ROOF**

In March Pastor William plans on not only preaching but also working from the roof. Who knows - we just might leave him up there until we have the funds raised to get our roof installed.

March-April, 2026

You may see work starting earlier, but we think we will be able to have the roof fully paid for and replaced by end of April 2026.

Jan. 1-Feb. 1, 2026

Build a replica of the SUMC building out of popsicle stick while raising funds for the roof.



Covering the Future

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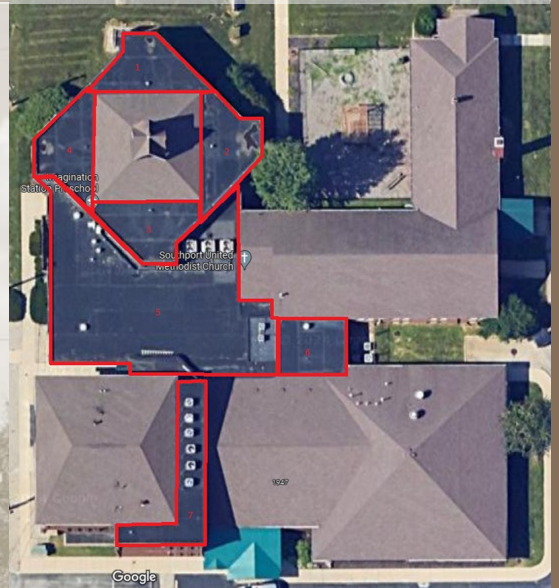
PART 1

We have the opportunity to provide for a major need of our faith community, a new roof. Getting this major improvement to our facilities taken care of will free us up to more fully use our building to share the love of Christ.

What: Replace the church's flat roof, which is past due and failing in several areas

Why: To protect our building, ministry space, and long-term mission

Cost Estimate: \$300,000 for roof replacement (including labor and materials)



BREAKING IT DOWN

Because we all have unique giving capabilities, we cannot simply divide the total needed by the number of families in our church to determine an "average" gift. Following is a model of the distribution of gifts that it will take for us to be successful. This also underscores the biblical principle of giving in proportion to what we have – and that's going to be different for all of us!

Roof		
# of Gifts	Gift Level	Total at Level
1	\$50,000	\$50,000
2	\$25,000	\$50,000
7	\$10,000	\$70,000
12	\$5,000	\$60,000
15	\$3,000	\$45,000
30	\$1,000	\$30,000
26	\$500	\$13,000
15	\$100	\$1,500
10	\$50	\$500
20	Misc	\$10,000
138		\$330,000



Covering the Future

PART 2

We are hoping to increase support to our church's maintenance fund. To feel secure we are in good shape to cover the future by taking care of all upcoming maintenance needs we are asking you to pledge cyclical giving. \$50,000 in above and beyond giving will ensure we can be a place that offers hope and grace for generations to come!

Maintenance Fund Pledge			
# of Pledgers	Monthly Pledge	Yearly Commitment	Total at Level
1	\$500	\$6,000	\$6,000
2	\$250	\$3,000	\$6,000
3	\$150	\$1,800	\$5,400
5	\$100	\$1,200	\$6,000
10	\$75	\$900	\$9,000
12	\$50	\$600	\$7,200
15	\$25	\$300	\$4,500
20	\$10	\$120	\$2,400
20	\$5	\$60	\$1,200
35		Misc.	\$2,300
123			\$50,000

IT ALL COUNTS

To ensure we always have the funds necessary to be good stewards of our space and provide effective ministry we need pledges for our maintenance fund. No matter how much you can pledge it will help.

Think you can't make a difference? The average drink from Starbucks costs \$6.25. If once a month instead of getting your coffee fix help us fix that leaky faucet. \$6.25 a month is \$75 a year and we can replace two faucets with that!



Periodic Contributions to the Church Improvement Fund will ensure we always have the ability to take care of our facility. Your pledges not only help us maintain our space but also plan for the future.



Q & A

Q: How did this get started?

A: We asked, “**what’s next?**” With the completion and success of the What If debt elimination campaign, we had to ask what’s next. Being debt free has freed us up to expand our ministries and even add several new ones. We are thankful for this and want to be able to maintain this momentum into the future. The burden of that debt, however, did come with us deferring several maintenance items, including the roof. So, what’s next in terms of stewardship at SUMC is getting caught up with those items, so we can continue to offer hope and grace for generations to come.

Q: Have we investigated the possibility that insurance will help with roof replacement?

A: We have. In fact the shingled parts of our roof were replaced after a hail storm in 2015. The other sections of the roof are more durable and did not sustain damages at that time. So, the roof is in need of replacement because of normal wear and tear which is not covered by insurance.

Q: Isn’t there a grant for this?

A: for We have folks regularly seeking and applying grants for SUMC. The reality is that our status as a religious organization limits us from some grants. The nature of this need is also limiting as most grants do not cover what is considered normal maintenance or operating expenses.

That being said, we are in the process of seeking grants for several security improvements. Keep an eye out for those.

Q: The roof looks fine to me, why are we replacing it?

A: The shingled parts of the roof you can see from the ground are in good shape. But, the flat part -about half of the roof- which you can’t see is not in good shape. It is about 10 years past its expected life, has had several small leaks, and has been patched and repaired many times. Keep in mind the \$300,000 is an estimate. Anything raised above the cost of the roof will be used for other maintenance needs of our facility.

Q: What other maintenance items need to be done?

A: There is an extensive list of items that need to be repaired, replaced, or upgraded in the near future. The leadership team in coordination with the staff and key members keep this list updated and prioritized in keeping with our mission & vision.

Q: How is progress going to be communicated?

A: We will communicate the progress of Raise the Roof: Covering the Future regularly. We will use all the standard forms of communication: announcements, monthly newsletters, weekly emails and maybe even share our progress in a few unique ways too.

Q: How can I help?

A: Anything you can do will help. Of course pledging and fulfilling your pledges is critical. But, you can help in many other ways too. Make sure to participate in the random opportunities like Operation Bring the Heat, Popsicle Stick Church, and Preachin’ from the Roof. And of course, don’t forget the power of prayer. We encourage you to pray often for the church Raise the Roof is no exception.

Staying True to Purpose

CONNECT—GROW—SERVE—GIVE—GO

As we go through the process of replacing our roof and fortifying our church improvement fund it is important that we remain true to who we are and whose we are. We are a faith community that is intentional about sharing God's love in all that we do. That means continuing to connect with our community, growing in our relationships and faith, serving often and extravagantly, giving generously, and going beyond our walls with Christ's message of hope and grace.

We can't hit the pause button. We have to keep going into the world, keep doing God's work, and keep being Christ's servants. This is what our faith calls us to do and it is how good stewardship works.

We will kicked this thing off with Operation Bring the Heat where we raised money for the roof, and financially support three nonprofits that our community is passionate about and that do extraordinary work.

In this same vein we will end the campaign by finding a roof (we aren't sure which one yet) that needs to be replaced. It may be a nonprofit organization it may be a community member, but we are called to pass on a portion of what God blesses us with. So, that is what we will do. That's why when we talk about the expense for the roof we say \$300,000, but when we talk about how much we need to raise we say \$330,000. Thank you, for all your gifts!

Everyone is sharing God's grace and hope through Jesus Christ in their 24x7 lives. So that...we are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and the world.

COMMITMENT

What each of us can contribute to **Raise the Roof: Covering the Future** will vary, but what is important is not what each of us can do individually but what all of us can do together. All contributions are important. Strengthening our mission, ministry, and witness in this community and beyond takes a commitment from us all. Thanks for being the church!

Heavenly Father, thank you for Your Son and the salvation and joy He brings. Make us more committed to You and Your work. Give us the strength to continue this journey of faith and help us make SUMC a place that serves You for generations to come. Help us make this a place that builds faith, teaches Your ways, and shares Your hope and grace freely. And, Lord, keep us true to You always. We commit this prayer through Jesus Christ.

Amen



Please email us at office@sumc.org or give us a call at (317) 784-9508 if you have any questions.

RAISE THE ROOF

I commit to giving

\$ _____

within the next 6-months to help pay for the new roof.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____



Lord, I present this commitment to you, acknowledging that everything I have and everything I am is a gift from you. I pray that you will grant me wisdom and strength and that you will bless and use the gifts that I humbly present to you.
Amen

Covering the Future

I pledge to give monthly

\$ _____

to the maintenance fund.

